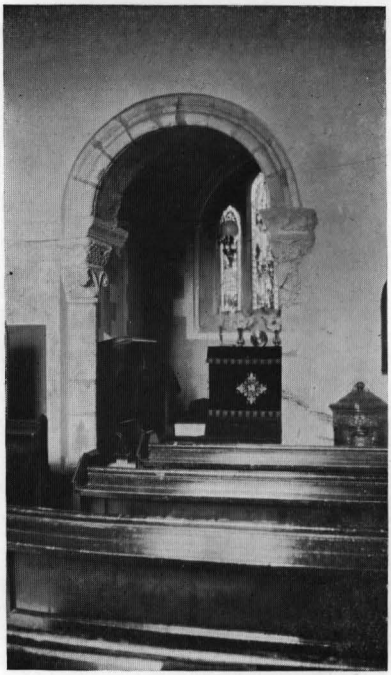

Frontispiece.—Selham Church : Chancel Arch.

The work is possibly Saxon, but Norman influence is strongly marked

Anglo-Saxon Church Architecture in Sussex.

By H. L. JESSEP,
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Preface.

THERE is a great need for the publication of a handy volume dealing *seriatim* with all the known examples of Anglo-Saxon church architecture in England. This could not, however, be the final word on the subject, as, almost every year, church restoration brings to light indications of undoubted or possible Saxon work, long concealed under plaster or hidden within walls.

Of course descriptions of many an old village church are scattered throughout archæological journals and other publications, and monographs have been written on the more important Saxon buildings. But most of these require some looking for, and the easily available county Guides—excellent and reliable from the archæological point of view as recent ones often are—notably those of the "Little Guide" series—have necessarily to condense their information within narrow limits. It is therefore with the view of bringing together in convenient form a fairly detailed list of practically all the recognised existing Anglo-Saxon construction in the parish churches of Sussex that the present little book has been compiled, and it is hoped that it may be useful not only to the professed archæologist or church antiquary, but also to the amateur.

The subject of Anglo-Saxon church architecture has received no abler or fuller treatment than that given to it by Professor Baldwin Brown, in *The Arts in Early England* (1901), though the number of examples he quotes might now be considerably added to. As

regards church architecture generally in Sussex, Mr. P. M. Johnston's contribution dealing with it in the *Victoria History* of the county is most reliable and exhaustive. To both these authorities the present writer is much indebted, and he has also consulted with advantage *Lombardic Architecture*, by G. T. Rivoira; *A History of Architectural Development*, by F. M. Simpson, F.R.I.B.A.; and *Byzantine and Romanesque Architecture*, by Sir T. G. Jackson, R.A.—all comparatively recent works of great interest and value. Mr. Tavenor-Perry's article on Saxon architecture in the *Memorials of Old Sussex*, as well as the contributions of many well-known authorities in archæological publications, have also been freely made use of. Within the last twenty years the writer has visited nearly every church referred to in this book, and some have been re-visited more than once.

The photographs have been taken to illustrate details of old construction, and not to make pretty pictures, which are now easily obtainable on post-cards of nearly every village church in England.

Finally, the writer desires to acknowledge the great obligation he is under to Mr. P. M. Johnston, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., who has most kindly read the proofs of this book, and has given valuable information which has been incorporated in the text.

Figure 1.—Arlington Church: S. wall of Nave.

Showing double-splayed Saxon window turned in Roman bricks.

Figure 2.—Arlington Church.

Showing fragmentary long-and-short work at S.E. quoin of Nave.

Anglo-Saxon Church Architecture in Sussex.

INTRODUCTION.

ANGLO-SAXON church architecture scarcely comes within the purview of the average Englishman; and, indeed, practically the whole history of England in Saxon times is a branch of knowledge with which only those who have made a special study of it are familiar. But early ecclesiastical architecture in England must always possess a fascination of its own, not indeed because it has any specially artistic value, but mainly because the buildings enshrining it form a visible link with the religion of our forefathers, and if merely from the historical point of view it ought to be regarded with interest and intelligence by English people to-day.

It is only within comparatively recent times that Anglo-Saxon architecture has received serious attention from archæologists, and although Mr. Rickman in early Victorian days had published a list of some score of churches in England which were at that time recognised as dating from pre-Conquest times, Mr. J. H. Parker, about forty years ago, came to the conclusion that there was no church architecture in England older than Norman; and, in 1881, when issuing the last edition of Rickman's *Attempt to discriminate the Styles of Architecture in England*, he omitted altogether the chapter on Saxon architecture. Although Mr. Parker recognized his error before his

death, it must, for a time, have caused a set-back to the study of the subject by ecclesiologists and architecture antiquaries. But a fresh impulse was given by the discoveries which were made in the course of the church restorations which took place all over this country during the later years of the last century, though, in carrying them out, an unfortunate lack of knowledge often resulted in the destruction of many valuable and interesting early features, and it occasionally happened that whole churches dating from pre-Conquest times were ruthlessly demolished. Nowadays church restorers are, as a rule, on the look-out for indications of early work with a view to its preservation, and many instances might be given where a church which had been regarded as of no special interest has been found to contain features which pointed to construction originally Saxon, and sometimes covering practically the whole fabric.

It may therefore not be out of place to give a short account of this early architecture, so that the reader, with a taste for things archæological, but without any initial acquaintance with the details of this particular subject, may be better able to appreciate the following references to Anglo-Saxon peculiarities of construction and ornament found in the churches of Sussex, and also to recognize the work of Saxon craftsmen when he meets with it in our village churches wherever they may be. With a few exceptions, he will not find indications of Saxon work in any other buildings,* and this will not seem remarkable when it is remem-

* An interesting account of the unique discovery at Barton Farm, Nyetimber, in the parish of Pagham, Sussex, of the "aula" of a pre-Conquest manor-house, together with Norman and Early English buildings, is given by Mr. P. M. Johnston in vol. xlvi of the *Sussex Archæological Society's Collections* (1903).

bered that the Danish invasions and ravages of the ninth century, followed, with increased fury, especially in Sussex, by further devastation at the beginning of the eleventh century, accounted for the demolition of an enormous number of Saxon towns and villages; and also that the Normans, although they did not wantonly destroy, almost invariably rebuilt in their own vigorous style the churches they found existing in England, only rarely incorporating the fabric of the Saxon building, or portions of it, with their own work. What, under the circumstances, is surprising, is that the examples still remaining of churches which were built in England between the coming of Augustine and his monks in 597 and the Norman Conquest in 1066, are sufficiently numerous and perfect to enable us to form a very good idea of the original appearance and details of these early buildings. It is a less easy matter to classify them chronologically, and the difficulty of doing so with any precision is not lessened in the later years of the Anglo-Saxon period, when Norman architectural influences began to be felt. But, as will be seen presently, Anglo-Saxon architecture, in all but its earliest forms, has no relation to the Romanesque style as developed in Normandy, so that, whenever definite details are forthcoming, it is comparatively easy to discriminate between late Anglo-Saxon work and Norman. There are, however, a few Saxon churches of which the date can be fixed with certainty by means of contemporary records, inscriptions, documentary evidence, and so on, and, with such guidance as these buildings afford, many characteristic architectural details, wherever found, can be assigned to more or less definite periods. It is, indeed, by details, far more than by the broader architectural features, such as the plan of the building or

the materials used in its construction, that pre-Conquest church architecture has, as a general rule, to be judged; for it had in England no regular evolution and development of style such as is found in the succeeding periods of what has come to be known as Gothic architecture, one reason for this being that the Teutonic tribes, when they established themselves in this country, brought no building tradition with them. In their own countries such building as they had to do was entirely in timber, and so, after their conversion to Christianity, most of the earliest churches, and many up to quite a late Saxon period, were simple wooden constructions, of which the church at Greenstead, Essex, remains the solitary representative to-day. But there existed in Britain, after the departure of the Romans early in the fifth century, considerable remains of their buildings which, it would appear, commended themselves to the admiration of the Saxons, for when they did attempt building in stone their churches had a certain appearance of Roman massiveness, due mainly to the use of huge blocks of stone which, having little skill in quarrying themselves, they obtained, when possible, from the ruins of the Roman buildings they had ruthlessly wrecked, even, when opportunity offered, re-using a complete construction, such as an arch, as may be seen to this day in the chancel arch of the church at Escombe, Durham, and also perhaps in that of Bignor Church, Sussex, at a later period, while, at Bosham, Sussex, the Saxon bases of the piers of the chancel arch stand upon the enormous bases of Roman columns.

There were, however, other influences which operated upon the form and enrichment of the Saxon churches. On one side was the Celtic influence, which produced the rectangular form of building, itself a development of the Irish "bee-hive" cell or oratory;

Figure 3.—Bishopstone Church.

The S. porch is Saxon, but has had a small Norman porch added to the entrance.

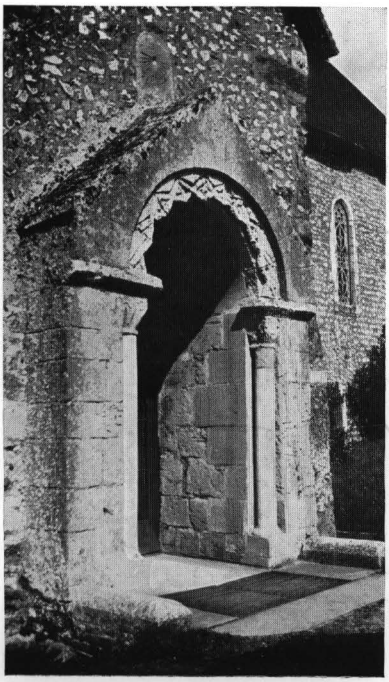

Figure 4.—Bishopstone Church.

Small Norman porch added at entrance of Saxon S. porch. Saxon sun-dial stone in porch wall above the secondary porch.

and on the other, the Continental influence, which was entirely of Roman origin, and from which came the basilican and cruciform plans which were adopted by the Saxons for their more important churches.

As regards the characteristic details and decorative features in Saxon work, these were, with one or two exceptions, also Roman in their origin, and were introduced into England, not only from Italy, but also from all parts of the Roman Empire.

There is a tendency to look upon the Anglo-Saxons in England as an isolated people, but, in reality, the intercourse, both religious and political, between England and the Continent was fairly close during the early centuries of the Middle Ages; and notably in the reign of Alfred, and again under Canute, there was a close connection between England and Rome. The religious intercourse with Rome which had ceased during the pagan Saxon *régime* naturally became constant when Augustine arrived in England in 597, bringing with him a retinue of monks, some of whom were, doubtless, skilled in church building. Foreign artificers, too, were imported in large numbers from the countries we now know as France and Germany, and although Anglo-Saxon "schools of art" undoubtedly existed, they must have been largely staffed by foreigners, among whom were probably even Byzantine Greeks, who instructed the local craftsmen and brought them models to copy; indeed, it is not unlikely that some of the "Runic" crosses found in the North of England are direct copies of ivory carvings executed by Byzantine workmen.*

It may be useful at this point to describe briefly the leading peculiarities of Saxon construction, and to

* *A History of Architectural Development*, F. M. Simpson, F.R.I.B.A.

see whether it is possible to gain from them some idea as to how far they may be utilized as an index of date. In the first place it must be borne in mind that, in default of other evidence than the building as it stands, it is, as a rule, impossible to assign a date to a Saxon church with the precision to which we are accustomed in the case of Gothic buildings. But there do exist certain definite characteristics which enable us to distinguish between churches of an early Saxon date and those which date from the hundred years or so immediately preceding the Norman Conquest. The majority of Anglo-Saxon ecclesiastical buildings which we know were founded, rebuilt or restored, in pre-Conquest times, belong (1) to the reign of Ine (688–728); (2) to that of Edgar (959–75); and (3) to the reigns of Canute and Edward the Confessor. It is to this last period that the great majority of Anglo-Saxon churches now remaining in England belong, and the number of these buildings, most of which, of course, have but fragmentary details to indicate their early origin, is not far off three hundred.

Of churches erected during the two-and-a-half centuries after the year 600 there are about thirty known examples remaining, but four or five of these, belonging to the seventh century, have little left beyond ruined walls, or can only be traced by their foundations. As none of these very early buildings are found in the county of Sussex, and as this present sketch does not profess to be a complete treatise on Anglo-Saxon architecture, we may proceed to the consideration of the special characteristics of the later churches, with the general statement that these characteristics are not, as a rule, to be found earlier than the year 950, and have been proved to be distinctive of the era which set in with the revival of church

building in the reign of Edgar after the disastrous Danish invasions, and lasted until the Normans arrived.

The general form of the Saxon village church was a simple nave, with usually a square-ended chancel and a western tower. The proportions were elongated, and the walls were often lofty in comparison with the plan. The apsidal form of chancel occasionally occurred all through the Anglo-Saxon period, while the fully developed cruciform plan, with or without a central tower, belongs to its two last centuries. Of the larger and more important churches, nearly all of which have perished, some certainly possessed aisles; the Saxon cathedrals at Canterbury and Winchester, for instance, are known from literary sources to have had them, but there are very few existing Saxon churches which can be proved to have been aisled, and thus to have been built on the basilican plan, which, even for small churches, was the form usually preferred in early Christian architecture not only in Europe but also in North Africa and the East.

The stone-built Saxon village church was, therefore, in general appearance, very much like the many small country churches, with tower, nave, and chancel, which we see throughout England to-day, and we must now examine more closely the special features and details which are peculiar to it in the tenth and eleventh centuries.

These characteristic details, which will be dealt with and explained separately, are:—Long-and-short work; double windows with mid-wall shafts; double-splayed windows; pilaster strips; strip-work surrounding openings; and comparatively tall and narrow loop windows splayed internally. Most of these features were introduced into England soon after the time at which they came into use in the provinces east of the

Rhine, and they can nearly all be traced to a Roman source. None of them were native inventions, although in the case of one or two the Saxon builders adopted a fashion of their own in the application of them.

Long-and-short work.—This method of building up the angles of churches, whether in the tower, nave, chancel, or porch, is readily recognized by even the most superficial observer of old church architecture, and is generally, but mistakenly, looked upon as something peculiarly Anglo-Saxon. The name which has been given to this manner of forming the quoins arises from the fact that in building up the corners masonry blocks are set with their longest dimension in an upright and flat position alternately. It was really a common-sense mode of building which was more or less suitable in the absence of larger blocks of stone, which, owing to want of skill, the Saxon workmen were unable to obtain from the quarries. In many countries, and at most periods, from the days of the Roman Empire, quoins have been formed in this way wherever the stone of the district was such that it split up naturally into small rubble, with occasional bigger stones, which could be used as stiffeners without squaring or chiselling. In Sussex such rubble and stones come out of quarries now, and the traveller in Normandy may to-day see long-and-short work in garden walls and out-buildings, and wherever only rough construction is required.* But when found in the quoins of our old churches, long-and-short work does help to differentiate Saxon building from Norman, though it does not of necessity imply a pre-Conquest date, for the Normans during the latter half of the eleventh century must have sometimes employed Saxon masons on the building and

* *A History of Architectural Development*, F. M. Simpson, F.R.I.B.A.

restoration of churches, and these artificers would have worked in their traditional way. It is curious to note that this particular arrangement of stones appears first in England in the earlier part of the Saxon period, but is then only found in the jambs of openings and not in the quoining of walls; its subsequent evolution during the eighth and ninth centuries is very difficult to trace, but the fact remains that it did not come into fashion again until about the year 950, after which date long-and-short work was in common use both for quoins and jambs. Figures 2, 8, and 14 show long-and-short technique in quoins, and Figures 6, 8, and 10 in jambs.

Double windows with mid-wall shafts.—This feature in its simplest form is most commonly found in the belfry-stage of the towers of churches in the eastern districts of England. It is undoubtedly of classical origin, but was derived by the Saxon builders, not directly from Italy, but through Germany. It does not come within the scope of this book to describe the various forms of the shafts and of the capitals which sometimes surmount them, and it must suffice to state that the distinguishing Saxon marks are the position of the shaft, central as regards the thickness of the wall, and of the flat slab or through-stone which it carries, and which supports the inner side of each arch of the two round-headed openings which make up the double window (Fig. 15). These mid-wall openings are cut straight through the wall without any splay, and it is often a Saxon method to adopt the same procedure with ordinary round-headed windows. The mid-wall shafts in belfry windows are usually quite plain, but in a few cases they have the peculiar form of a baluster, with a series of projections and hollows apparently formed on a lathe; and when so treated the Saxon baluster may be regarded as a national feature without

counterpart in Europe or elsewhere.* The lathe-turned shafts were generally adopted by the Saxons in other positions than in belfries.

Double-splayed windows.—The use of window openings splayed both outwards and inwards, and having the aperture for light at or near the centre of the wall, was not unknown to the Romans, and a still-existing example of the second century may be seen in Rome;† but the oldest surviving specimen in an ecclesiastical building is in the church of Bagnacavallo, Central Italy, dating from the fifth or sixth century. Later on, this feature is found in Germany, and before the year 1000 it had become very common there for the smaller openings in churches; thence, it made its way to Saxon England, although a stray and quite exceptional specimen had, long before, appeared in a Celtic oratory in county Kerry. Double-splayed windows are shown in Figures 1 and 11, though of course only the exterior splay can be seen.

Pilaster strips.—When first used on the Continent these have a distinctly classical form, and thus indicate their Italian origin; but towards the end of the tenth century, when their use had become general in Lombardy, Germany, and parts of France, the classical appearance is lost, and when introduced into England the pilasters become flat upright bands of stone-work, about four inches to nearly one foot in width, with a slight projection, on the exterior of walls, and either end under a flat corbel or string-course, or are joined at the tops by an arcading of round-headed or straight-sided arches. The most striking instance of their fully-developed use is seen on the tower of Earl's

* *Byzantine and Romanesque Architecture*, Sir T. G. Jackson, R.A.

† *Lombardic Architecture*, G. T. Rivoira.

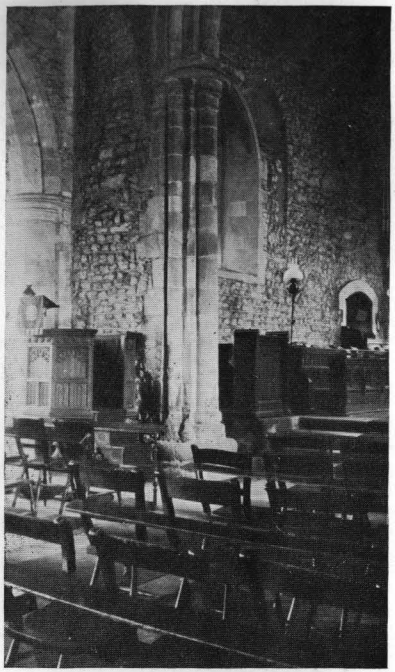

Figure 5.—Bosham Church: N. jamb of Chancel arch.

Remains of a Saxon window partly blocked by the E. jamb of a later window are seen in the N. wall of the Chancel.

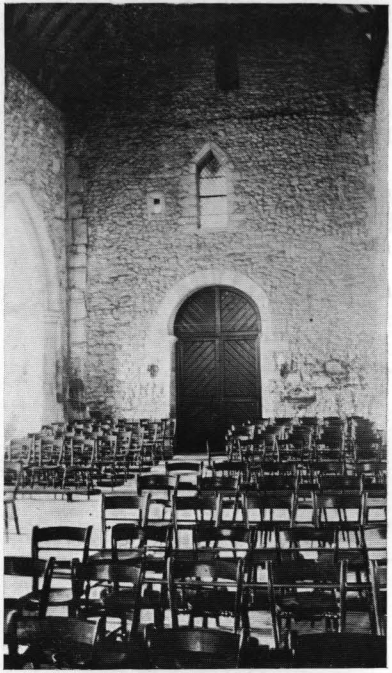

Figure 6.—Bosham Church: W. wall of Nave.

Showing long-and-short work in the jambs of the Tower Arch, and Saxon openings above.

Barton Church, Northamptonshire, but they are more commonly found on external walls as separate strips resembling small buttresses. Their main purpose, however, is not to give constructional strength, but decorative effect; very often they are built up in long-and-short fashion, but the appearance they usually present is that shown on the south side of Woolbeding Church, Sussex (Fig. 13).

England has no decoration of this kind to show before the end of the reign of Edgar, and it was not till the later years of the Anglo-Saxon period that any elaboration of the use of strip-work ornamentation came into fashion:*

Sir W. H. St. John Hope has lately pointed out that some figured mosaic pavement discovered in North Africa shows Roman buildings ornamented with pilasters in precisely the same way as occurs on Earl's Barton tower.

Strip-work round openings. — Any chronological inference which applies to the upright pilaster will be equally suitable for the strip-work round openings, which is simply an Anglo-Saxon adaptation of the upright strips by bending them round the curve of an arch, and thus forming a kind of frame or hood-mould for the opening, which is flanked by the vertical part of the strip-work. This use of strip-work has no prototype in Germany, and seems to be peculiar to England. The pilasters flanking openings usually start from corbel stones, as do also the wall pilaster-strips at Earl's Barton and elsewhere; the corbel stones are a suggestion of the classical base to Roman pilasters. The best example in Sussex of plain strip-work round openings is seen on the chancel arch and transept

* *Lombardic Architecture*, G. T. Rivoira.

arches of Worth Church. The same idea is expressed in a more elaborated form in the doorway at the Church of St. John-sub-Castro, Lewes (Fig. 9).

Internally-splayed loop windows. — The now desecrated basilica at Michelstadt in the Odenwald, which was built in 827, retains its original nave windows, which are round-headed or circular openings all internally splayed. This feature appeared correspondingly early in England, and lasted all through the Anglo-Saxon period; hence it must not be taken by itself as a definite indication of a very early date. As a rough guide, it may be noted that the earliest examples of internally-splayed loop windows are wide in proportion to their height, while those of the period 950–1066 are tall and narrow.

There is one feature which is met with in Anglo-Saxon work which seems to be a survival of a Celtic method of construction, and that is the inward inclination of the jambs of doors and windows, by which the opening is made narrower above than below (Fig. 12). It generally points to a pre-Conquest origin, but is not unknown in Norman times. Another minor detail which is a tolerably certain indication of early work is the setting-back of the springing of arches to a point within the line of the inner face of the jambs, so that the width between the jambs is less than that between the two points of springing. This peculiarity does not often occur, and there does not appear to be an example of it in Sussex.

Chancel and tower arches and arches of doorways are the most likely features in the interior of an old church to retain Saxon construction, and if the masonry of the arches or jambs is composed of stones which run through the whole thickness of the wall, there is

a great probability that the work is pre-Conquest. The Norman method was usually to have squared stones only on the two faces of the wall, and to fill up the intervening space with rubble.

Roman bricks or tiles indiscriminately scattered among building material of stone or flint prove nothing as to date, as their use was almost as common soon after the Norman Conquest as before it. If the bricks are set in bands or bonding-courses, in imitation of Roman construction, there is more probability of the work belonging to the Saxon period, and possibly to its earlier years.

Herring-bone work (Figs. 12 and 18), either in stone or Roman brick, when found in church walls, is more likely to be Norman than Anglo-Saxon; only in walls less than about 2ft. 6ins. in thickness might it be accepted, without other evidence, as probable pre-Conquest construction. Roman walling was often faced with herring-bone work, and an instance may be seen in Sussex at Pevensey Castle.

Triangular-headed or straight-sided arches must be regarded with caution as pointing to Anglo-Saxon work; stone slabs were set up at an angle against each other so as to form the head of an arch both in Roman and Norman times, and a triangular form of arch is not uncommon in Gothic architecture. Of course, if long-and-short work is found in the jambs of a triangular-headed opening a Saxon date may be assumed (Fig. 6).

Having now mentioned the chief characteristic details in Anglo-Saxon church architecture, a few words may be given to its broader features. What will at once strike the eye in some old village churches is the great height of the side walls in proportion to their length, and when the nave is of great proportionate length as well as height it may fairly be assumed that

the building is of Anglo-Saxon origin; should a church with such features also have a plain unbuttressed western tower of great height in proportion to its other dimensions the assumption is strengthened, and an investigation of the details will probably confirm it. But it is not often that a simple church of nave, chancel, and tower, of pre-Conquest date, is found unaltered from its original construction; the walls may perhaps have been heightened or lowered in later times, buttresses will probably have been added to the tower and main walls, and one or more aisles may have been thrown out, and the chancel lengthened, thus obscuring the original character of the building. Nor must it be imagined that all Saxon church walls are proportionately lofty or that all Saxon naves are proportionately long; Saxon architects followed no definite scheme of proportion, and the early Norman builders not unfrequently carried the walls of their churches to a remarkable height.* It is possible, however, to apply another test, and this is in connection with the roof; a steeply-pitched roof is an Anglo-Saxon peculiarity, and though there are very few cases in which the Saxon gable has been preserved, it will have left its mark on the wall of the tower.

It has already been stated that the Saxons built their church walls comparatively thin; probably about 2ft. 4ins. may be taken as their average measurement, though tower walls not even 2ft. in thickness have been found in a few instances, and are solid to this day, a fact which testifies to the care with which they were built. The walling itself is generally of irregular

* Professor Baldwin Brown suggests that the lofty Saxon walls with small apertures high up in them were a means of protection against raiders, and that they were first adopted in the Danish period (800—950) with this view.

rubble-work, of stone or flint, or both, compacted with a free use of mortar, which is sometimes of a pink colour, from having pounded brick or tile mixed in it. The Saxons seem to have inherited their use of pink mortar and thin walls from the Romans, in whose villas and other buildings they found the same sort of construction. We have already seen that in their earliest building efforts they utilized Roman squared stones, whenever available, for the quoins of their churches, and to these may be added massive lintel-stones over square-headed door-ways, but the latter form of construction is not unknown in early Norman times.

The Saxon Churches of Sussex.

Of the three hundred and fifteen old churches remaining in Sussex, there are probably nearly fifty which had their origin either before the Norman Conquest or in the decade or so immediately following it, and still retain indications, in most cases only fragmentary, of their great antiquity. Of this number, fifteen churches show such definite characteristics of Anglo-Saxon construction that a pre-Conquest date—not earlier than 950 in any instance—may be accepted for them. Of the remainder, it is very difficult to say whether their oldest features date from shortly before or after the Conquest; in some cases Norman influence is evident in work which is of Saxon character, while in others Saxon peculiarities are seen combined with details of Norman character. This is due to the fact that there was a short period during which Saxon craftsmen were influenced by Norman architectural ideas, or were actually employed under Norman superintendence. It is certain that a considerable number of Normans were in England during the reign of Edward the Confessor, many of whom were specially brought over by him in connection with the building of the Abbey Church at Westminster which he had founded. This helps to account for the Norman architectural influence which is evident in some pre-Conquest churches; and, on the other hand, the employment of Saxon masons by the Norman church-builders after the Conquest would explain the appearance of some of the traditional Saxon features in churches which are more Norman than Saxon in their main characteristics. In

Figure 7.—Bosham Church: Saxon tower, except top stage, which is Norman.

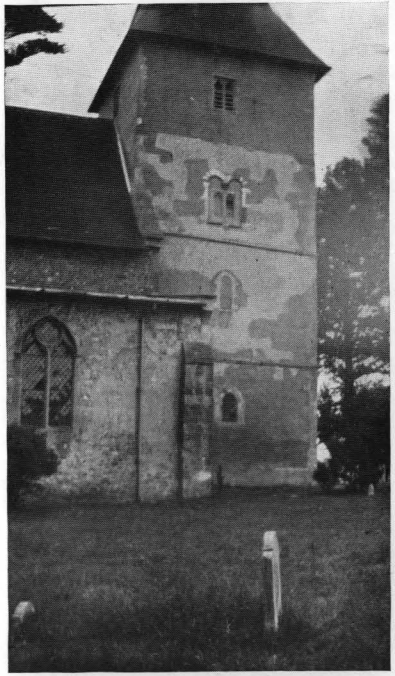

Figure 8.—Bosham Church: N. side of Tower.

Showing remains of a double Saxon window in which a modern two-light window has been inserted. Long-and-short work is seen in the old window jambs and in N.W. quoin of Tower, lowest stage.

default therefore of any definite Saxon details, and where rudeness of construction and rough workmanship are practically the only and very unsatisfactory guide as to date, it is impossible to say positively whether such unmistakably early work as is found in some of the Sussex churches is of pre-Conquest date or not, and the only plan seems to be to sub-divide these doubtful churches into two groups,—those which are *possibly* pre-Conquest, and those which are *probably* post-Conquest. There must necessarily be a good deal of guess-work in such classification, and no two archæological authorities would arrive at the same result; the following lists of doubtful churches are therefore only tentatively suggested, and they must not be looked upon as absolutely exhaustive; at the same time it is believed that they embrace nearly every existing church in Sussex which may reasonably be supposed to have had its origin not later than about the year 1080, or earlier than the concluding years of the Confessor's reign.

The fifteen churches which contain features of an undoubted Saxon date are:—

Arlington.
Bishopstone.
Bosham.
Clayton.
Ford.
Jevington.
Lewes (St. John-sub-Castro).
Rumboldswyke.
Singleton.
Shoreham, Old.
Sompting.
Stoughton.
Westhampnett.
Woolbeding.
Worth.

Of these churches the most valuable examples are Bosham, Sompting, and Worth.

The following nineteen churches have certain early features of construction and detail, but retain no

definitely Saxon characteristics, and so are classed as only *possibly* of pre-Conquest date:—

Aldingbourne.	Hardham.
Bexhill.	Lurgashall.
Bignor.	Lyminster.
Bolney.	Ovingdean.
Botolphs.	Selham.
Chichester (St. Olave's).	Slaugham.
Chithurst.	Walberton.
Eastergate.	Westdean.
Elsted.	Wivelsfield.
Friston.	

In some of the above-named churches there is a combination of early Norman with apparently Saxon work, and, as has already been indicated, this may have taken place either in Edward the Confessor's or in William the Conqueror's reign.

The undermentioned ten churches are probably of post-Conquest origin, though they contain some features which might be the work of Saxon masons:—

Burpham.	Hangleton.
Burton.	Northiam.
Eastdean.	Rottingdean.
Ferring.	Stopham.
Fittleworth.	Upmarden.

The churches named in the three foregoing lists are situated chiefly in the western half of Sussex, only about one-third of them being in the eastern half, in which the ancient churches nearly all lie close to the coast-line between Brighton and Eastbourne. Of the fifteen churches which are believed to have an undoubted Saxon origin, all but four are in the western half of the county. (*See map at end.*)

The fact that the greater part of the county north of the South Downs was anciently covered with a thick forest—the famous Andredesweald—accounts for the situation of the great majority of the existing old churches being south of this range. There were, however, small clearings here and there in the forest, but if the Saxons established churches in them they would —failing a supply of stone from the ruins of a Roman building—have been, as a rule, of timber construction. Only near the coast where there were greater facilities for obtaining stone were the Saxon churches built of this material, for, as already noticed, the Saxons were not skilled in quarrying.

Before proceeding to consider in detail the ancient churches and to note their Saxon, or possibly Saxon, features, it is perhaps permissible to say, with all deference, that there seems to have been a tendency of late among English archæologists to jump too hastily to the conclusion that because some particular feature, whether arch, door-way, or window, has some appearance of Saxon workmanship, a pre-Conquest date may be assigned to the existing fabric of the original church, whereas, in default of other evidence, an early Norman date is much more probable, and, in Sussex especially, this is likely to be the case.

Arlington (St. Pancras).

The church stands on a Roman site, and fragments of Roman brick and pottery have been found under its floors. Much of it was rebuilt in the fourteenth century, and the chancel is mainly modern re-construction, but the building retains, as the chief indication of its early origin, a round-headed window about two-and-a-half feet high by fourteen inches wide, in the S. wall of the nave (Figure 1). The opening is

splayed both externally and internally, and the modern glazing is nearly central in the thickness of the wall, where there is a groove for the wooden shutter which originally closed the window. On the outside the head of the window is turned in Roman bricks, of which material use is also made in the construction of the S. wall. The window was only opened up at the restoration of the church in 1896. It might possibly be as early as the latter part of the tenth century, and the comparatively lofty walls of the nave are also an indication of an early date. At the S. angles of the nave (Fig. 2) there are remains of long-and-short work; the responds of the chancel arch and the internal quoins of the chancel at the E. end seem to belong to the original building.

There was probably a much earlier church on the site, as pieces of burnt clay, with marks upon them of wood wattle, were found beneath the floors of the tower and nave.

Bishopstone (Dedication unknown).

Bishopstone church (Fig. 3) is the only one in Sussex which possesses a pre-Conquest porch, and this most interesting feature on the S. side of the nave seems to have been originally built as a lateral chapel, the door into the church being placed to the west of the centre of the porch, thus leaving space for an altar against its eastern wall. A small secondary porch (Fig. 4) was built in front of the external door-way early in the twelfth century. Above it, in the wall of the original porch, is a dial-plate of Caen stone, incised on its upper part with a cross and the name Eadric, possibly thus commemorating the founder of the church. An ornamental border of a kind of billet pattern in low relief runs round the upper semicircle of the stone,

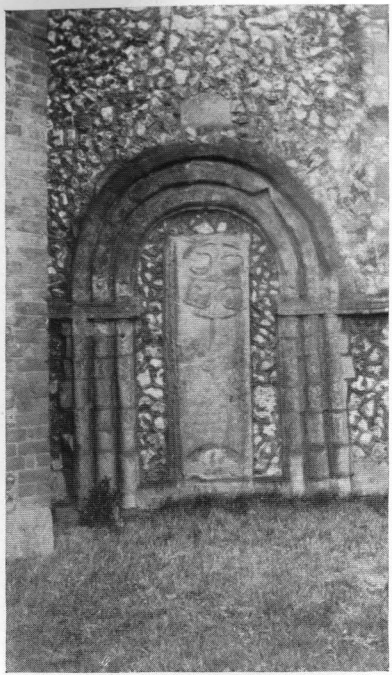

Figure 9.—Saxon door-way rebuilt into a wall of the modern church of St. John-sub-Castro, Lewes.

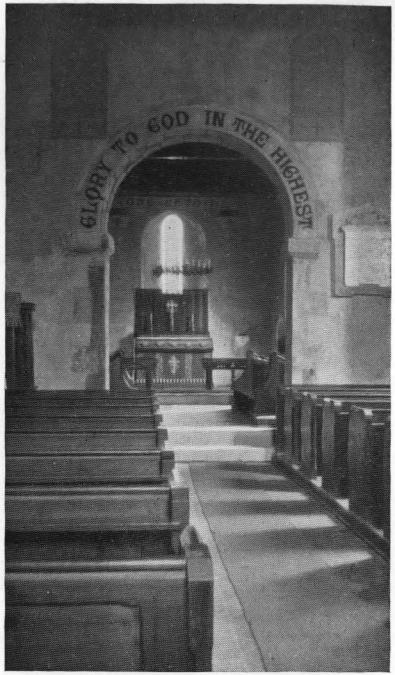

Figure 10.—Rumboldswyke Church.
Showing long-and-short work in the piers of the Chancel Arch.

and this being usually a Norman decoration, some doubt has been raised as to the age of the dial; but its principal dividing lines, with cruciform terminations, are spaced like those on dials known to be of Saxon date. Remarkably large squared stones—one measures 4ft. 3ins. high— of rough yellow sand-stone are in the quoining of the outer angles of the porch, and in their arrangement there is a suggestion of long-and-short work which is more definitely shown at the upper part of the quoins. Saxon porches always measure more along the axis of entrance than in the other direction, and at Bishopstone the length of the porch is more than 3ft. greater than its width.

At the N.W. and S.W. angles of the nave there are fragments remaining of long-and-short work in yellow sandstone. The massive quoining of the porch might point to a very early Saxon date, but taking into consideration the long-and-short construction therein, and at the W. angles of the nave, it is probably not far wrong to place the original church quite early in the eleventh century. The fabric of the nave must contain much Anglo-Saxon masonry enshrined in the later walling of flint. Apart from modern restoration there is no work more recent than the thirteenth century in this church. The tower is of early Norman date.

Bosham (Holy Trinity).

The Church and manor of Bosham were annexed to the See of Canterbury in 1035, but the oldest parts of the present building are probably a few years later than this. That there was a church founded by Wilfrid in the seventh century on the same site, where it is said a Roman basilica had also once stood, is possible, but there are no visible remains of it. And there must have been even an earlier Christian church than

Wilfrid's, for when he arrived in 681 to commence the evangelisation of the South Saxons, he found here a small colony of monks under Dicul, a Scot; they do not seem to have attempted any missionary work, but they must have had at least an oratory for their own purposes, though it was most likely only a structure of wattle and daub.

The undoubted pre-Conquest parts of the church as it is now seen are the tower and the western third of the chancel, including the chancel arch, which is perhaps somewhat later than the tower. The nave cannot with certainty be considered as co-eval with the chancel or tower, for it seems probable that its walls were rebuilt—doubtless on the original lines—when the thirteenth century aisles were added. The chancel was lengthened in the early Norman period and given an apsidal termination, and a further lengthening, involving the destruction of the apse, took place in the thirteenth century. Herring-bone work may be seen in the Norman portion of the chancel walls, both inside and out.

The lofty chancel arch of horse-shoe form is the most interesting Anglo-Saxon feature in the church; it has an unusually developed style with a soffit shaft and angle shafts on each jamb (Fig. 5). The bases of the shafts are curiously and rudely moulded, and stand on a circular slab 9in. high, which is imposed upon a square-edged plinth of similar height measuring 4ft. from east to west. These sub-bases, which were only laid bare in 1865, are undoubtedly Roman, and are possibly *in situ*. They have been quaintly copied by the Saxon builders in the design of the capitals, except that there is a reversed arrangement of the blocks forming them, the square-edged stone being made the upper one of the two.

A blocked round-headed Saxon window is in the W. part of the N. wall of the chancel, and is only visible from the interior (Fig. 5). Opposite to it, in the S. wall, the remains of the arch of a priest's door-way may be seen on the exterior. The tower-arch is a Norman re-construction, but the jambs are Saxon, and show long-and-short work (Fig. 6). Above it, at a height of 18ft. from the floor level, there is a large triangular-headed opening, also with long-and-short work in the jambs. This must have been a door-way (which could only have been reached by a ladder) giving access to a chamber (perhaps a priest's residence) in the tower, or possibly it opened on to a west gallery. On its S. side a small rectangular opening would have afforded a view of the interior of the church from this chamber. Twelve feet above the door-way there is a round-headed opening, which, judging from the height (29ft.) of the nave walls, gave access to the space between an upper and lower roof.

Externally, the tower (which measures about 3½ft. more from E. to W. than it does from N. to S.) is unbuttressed and quite plain, except that an imperfect rectangular string-course runs above and below the second stage (Fig. 7). The top stage is of late Norman date. The round-headed openings in the lower stages may have been of Anglo-Saxon date originally, but they seem to have been re-formed in Norman times and later. In the third stage, on the N. face, a modern two-light window has been inserted into an Anglo-Saxon double opening, of which there remain the voussoirs and abaci, and jambs with long-and-short work; the capital which belonged to the central baluster shaft of the Saxon window rests on the top of the inserted window, and is formed of Roman tiles; the old work has been a good deal renovated (Fig. 8).

Possibly for reasons of defence the tower has no external door-way.

The plan of the tower, nave, and chancel is extraordinarily out of square, and the axis of the chancel diverges considerably southwards from the axis of the nave.

A conventional representation of Bosham church appears in the celebrated Bayeux Tapestry.

Clayton (St. John the Baptist).

The high walls of this small nave-and-chancel church at once suggest the probability of an Anglo-Saxon date for the building, which is confirmed by the form of the jambs of the chancel arch. These resemble on a smaller scale the jambs at Bosham; they have three half-columns without capitals or bases, one half-column forming a soffit shaft, while the two others are set on the E. and W. faces respectively, but are not recessed, as at Bosham. The arch itself has bold rolls and a projecting rectangular impost, with its under face chamfered, and may be a Norman re-construction. The jambs stand on square blocks of stone.

On the exterior of the nave the N.W. angle has some long-and-short work, but large stones are also used in the quoin. Similar construction may be hidden at the S.W. angle, which is thickly coated with plaster.

There are no other features of definite Anglo-Saxon work, but it seems probable that a considerable portion of the fabric dates from about the middle of the eleventh century.

Ford (St. Andrew).

Although there is not much Anglo-Saxon work remaining in this little church, it is one of the most interesting churches in Sussex. It stands upon a possibly Roman site, and every period of English

architecture from the eleventh century to the seventeenth is represented in it.

The church underwent restoration in 1865, but it was not till it was taken in hand in 1899 by Mr. P. M. Johnston, who also brought to light the ancient mural paintings on its walls, that the interesting nature of the fabric was fully understood.

The N. wall of the nave has four round-headed windows, of which the two smallest have been pronounced pre-Norman; one of these, the easternmost, was only discovered during the recent restoration, and it has had its external jambs renewed. The similar westernmost window measures 2ft. 4½ins. high by 6ins. wide; the internal jambs have a narrow splay—a mark of an early date; it has also a peculiar internal rebate. The N. and W. walls of the nave, built of flint rubble, are mainly of Saxon construction, and are about 1ft. thinner than the Norman walling (*c.* 1100) of the chancel, which was lengthened about 1320. Another distinguishing mark between the Saxon and Norman work is to be seen in the external plinth, which, on the N. and W. walls, is a shallow chamfered set-off projecting about 1½ins., while the early Norman plinth, which it joins at the N.W. angle of the chancel, has a broad chamfer and 3ins. projection. Norman herring-bone masonry is to be seen on the S. side of the chancel. In the reign of Henry V the church was fired by French raiders and lost its S. aisle, after which the S. wall of the nave was entirely rebuilt; remains of the western respond of the arcade are, however, visible near the S.W. angle.

The probable date of the oldest portions of the existing church is about 1040. There is indeed an earlier relic, perhaps of its predecessor, in the form of a stone bearing carving of interlaced strap-work of

an unusual pattern, which has been built in as part of a rough arch over a fifteenth century N. door-way, originally external, but now communicating with a modern vestry on the N.W. of the nave.

The very full illustrated description of Ford church, given by Mr. P. M. Johnston in vol. xlviii of the *Sussex Archæological Collections*, should be studied by any intending visitor to this church.

Jevington (St. Andrew).

The unbuttressed massive square tower, much restored in 1873, contains evidences of very late Anglo-Saxon work, but the church which belonged to it has been superseded by a thirteenth century building. The tower has a suggestion of long-and-short work at the N.E. quoin, and there are portions of herring-bone flint work, especially noticeable high up on the N. face. The window-openings have been too much modernized for any judgment as to their original date to be passed upon them, but such old fragments as they may retain are probably of Norman date. The remains of the head of a brick-formed window above a small modern light in the lowest stage of the N. and S. faces of the tower may be Saxon, though the arch is obtusely-pointed; the bricks are set with their edges outwards.

A pre-Conquest date has been claimed for a rude carving about 2ft. high, which has been built into the interior wall of the church above the S. door-way; it was found in a sarcophagus under the tower, but no satisfactory explanation has been given as to what the carving represents. It has been described as (1) Christ bruising the serpent's head; (2) St. Michael; (3) St. George and the dragon; or (4) a pilgrim. Judging from the cruciform nimbus the first is probably the most correct description.

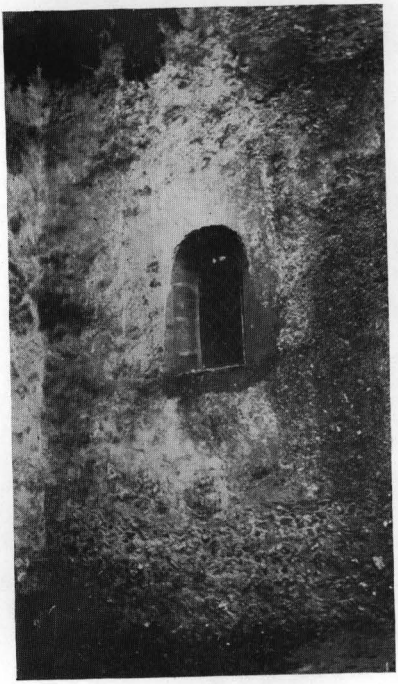

Figure 11.—Singleton Church: double-splayed window in N. wall of Tower.

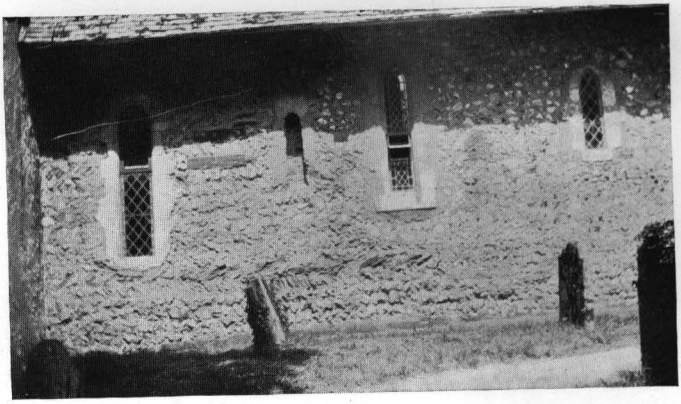

Figure 12.—Westhampnett Church: S. wall of Chancel.

Showing small Saxon window (blocked) with inclined jambs. Herring-bone masonry is seen in the wall.

Lewes (St. John-sub-Castro).

The present church dates only from 1839, but the one which it replaced was of ancient date, judging from a round-headed door-way which was retained from it, and is now incorporated in the outer E. wall of an organ-chamber annexe on the N. side of the chancel (Fig. 9). The double grooving of the rectangular imposts (which were probably continued as a string-course on the original building) is typically Saxon, but the three half-rolls on each side of the jambs continued, in a flatter form, round the arch, are not devoid of Norman influence, though at the same time the idea of Saxon strip-work decoration is expressed. The door-way, which was 3ft. 3ins. wide and 6ft. 6ins. high, closely resembles one in the N. wall of the nave of Old Shoreham Church, and probably dates from the end of Edward the Confessor's reign.

A fourteenth century coffin-slab with a floriated cross is built vertically into the flint blocking of the door-way. An inscribed stone above the door-way bears the date 1633, and the names of the church-wardens at that time, doubtless recording some restoration work in the old church.

Rumboldswyke (St. Rumbold).

The whole shell of the nave and chancel of this little church in a southern suburb of Chichester seems to be of pre-Conquest date, probably *c.* 1060. The church was largely rebuilt in the thirteenth century, and has had a N. aisle added in modern times. There is some fragmentary long-and-short work at the N.E. and S.E. angles of the chancel; the plain chancel arch approaches a horse-shoe form, and there is long-and-short work in the piers (Fig. 10). The rectangular abaci, partly restored, have their under-sides chamfered,

and it is possible that both they and the arch itself represent a Norman re-construction.

The E. wall of the nave, on each side of the chancel arch, contains stone herring-bone work; similar construction, in Roman tiles, occurs in the external walls, and the same material forms much of the walling above the chancel arch, and is also seen worked in here and there with the rubble of the walls outside.

The original plan of this church and of the churches at Ovingdean and Westhampnett closely resemble each other; the dimensions of the several chancels were originally almost identical—about 19ft. long by 13ft. wide—and the thickness of their walls is 2ft. 6ins., which also is the thickness of the nave walls at Rumboldswyke. Norman walls are almost always at least 3ft. thick, though often not so well built as the thinner Saxon walls.

Old Shoreham (St. Nicholas).

This interesting cruciform church is mainly Norman, but the N.W. angle of the nave and the W. part of the N. wall have indications of Anglo-Saxon work probably of the reign of Edward the Confessor. The four lowest quoin-stones at the angle named are built in long-and-short fashion, and higher up again there is similar work. On the external side, for a length of about 15ft. from the angle, the N. wall is seen to be of much rougher workmanship than its eastern part, with which it is not flush by about a foot; on the interior this apparently older walling projects into the church, and at about the centre of it there is a blocked door-way, tall and narrow, with remains of strip-work round it on the external side. Its similarity to the old door-way at Lewes has already been mentioned.

It is possible that a small triangular-headed window, high up in the gable of the W. wall of the nave was once

a Saxon opening, if indeed it is not original. Doubtless much of the whole shell of the nave contains Saxon masonry.

Singleton (St. John Evangelist).

The lowest stage of the exceptionally spacious west tower was erected probably quite early in the eleventh century, and it is possible that parts of the nave walls are also of pre-Conquest date.

Early in the thirteenth century the main fabric of the church, much as it now stands, was rebuilt, as were also the tower arch and the upper half of the tower; the top stage of the latter was re-constructed late in the fourteenth century, and battlements have been added.

The features which clearly indicate a Saxon date are three double-splayed windows at a rather unusual height above the ground in the N., S., and W. walls of the bottom stage of the tower (Fig. 11). They measure about 1ft. 3ins. wide and 2ft. 9ins. high, and the external jambs splay out to a width of 2ft. 3ins.; the inner splays seem to have undergone some alteration. The round-heads are splayed upwards to admit as much light as possible, and this is especially noticeable in the case of the window on the S. side. Above the tower arch, within the church, there is a triangular-headed doorway, as at Bosham; but the present opening seems to be a re-construction of the thirteenth century.

It has been suggested that the tower, the walls of which are not more than 2ft. 6ins. thick, was built primarily with a view to defence, as may also have been the case with some other Sussex towers near the coast. Some of the quoin-stones are doubled, an arrangement which may also be seen in the nave angles at Ford and Lyminster; at the S.W. angle there is a suggestion of

long-and-short work. A fresh-water limestone from the Selsey peninsula is mainly used for the early work, and it has become very much hardened by exposure.

A two-light rectangular window in the E. gable of the nave is believed to have been originally a Saxon opening.

Sompting (St. Mary the Virgin).

The Sussex historian, Horsfield, pronounced this cruciform church with its western tower to be of Norman date, and quite recently some archæologists, with a more intimate knowledge of early church architecture, have favoured the same view; but in the interim the church has been generally accepted as of Saxon origin, at all events as far as the tower is concerned. Whatever may be the original date of the building it is quite evident that the tower is the oldest part of it remaining, and that it has undoubtedly characteristic Saxon features, modified apparently by Norman and German influence. It may, therefore, be fairly considered that the tower dates from the later years of Edward the Confessor's reign, and it is an especially interesting one from the fact that it terminates at the summit with a gable on each face carrying a spire-like roof, which however, lost 25ft. of its height in the eighteenth century; this type of construction is of German origin, but, according to Rivoira, the oldest examples of it are not earlier than the twelfth century. The form is fairly common in Germany, especially along the Rhine, but it is rarely seen in other countries, and, in England, Sompting retains the only remaining example.*

* The pilaster strip ascending the centre of each face of the tower of St. Benedict's, Cambridge, seems to indicate that it once ran up to the point of a gable, as at Sompting.

The quoining of the angles of the tower is in long-and-short work, but this differs from the usual type in that the "short" stones do not project below the "long" ones, with the result that a straight and uniform perpendicular line finishes the edge of the quoining all the way up, and the original plaster which covers the rubble work is brought up to this edge. On the centre of each face of the tower there is a pilaster strip, not flat as is usual in Saxon work, but half-round in section, which seems to indicate Norman workmanship. The stones forming the strips are of fresh-water limestone from the Selsey peninsula, alternating with Caen stone, which is extensively employed in the early and later work here; they are built in long-and-short fashion, and extend up to the apex of the tower gables, but a little under the belfry openings there is an interruption caused by the insertion of a sort of rudely carved capital. The strips are 9ins. wide, and project about 2ins.; the bonding (*i.e.*, the "short") stones are from 3½ to 6ins. high, and the vertical stones, set one behind the other to fill the thickness of the wall, are from 1ft. 6ins. to 2ft. 9ins. high. On the E. and W. faces of the belfry stage there are two triangular-headed openings separated by the upright pilaster strip, and on the N. and S. faces is a similarly separated pair of double openings, each with a mid-wall baluster; the corbel cap of the latter, in the case of the N.W. window, resembles a type found in Germany in eleventh century churches, and all the capitals are of a peculiar design.

One-third of the way up the tower there is a horizontal string-course cut into a kind of "billet" moulding, which has a Norman look; and above it the continuation of the centre rib or pilaster has a slight variation from the line of that below it, which seems to indicate that the building of the tower did not proceed uninterruptedly.

When we come to examine the interior, the tower arch at once strikes us as being of more advanced character than the chancel arch at Bosham for instance; it is square-edged and round-headed, and in these respects follows the normal early design, but a late date is indicated by the semi-columns or soffit shafts carrying a half-round moulding of similar section to the shafts which run round the centre of the soffit of the arch; the shaft on the S. has a roughly carved capital, ornamented with three tiers of small upright leaves with their tips turned over, thus giving a quasi-classical appearance which is enhanced by the bold volutes resembling cornucopias carved on the adjoining impost belonging to the outer member of the pier. Similar debased Corinthian capitals are found in some early Romanesque churches in Germany, and it seems that the Sompting sculptor must have taken these as his model. The question of a precise date for the tower is beset with difficulties, as may be gathered from the different conclusions at which experts have arrived; it has been suggested that an earlier tower arch than the present one once existed, and if this could be proved one obstacle would be removed.

A Saxon date has been claimed for parts of the nave and chancel walls, and for two alabaster panels in the church carved in bas-relief, but these carvings can hardly be earlier than the thirteenth century. Some stones carved with interlacing strap and foliage work, and re-used by the Norman builder round a triangular piscina-recess in the S. wall of the chancel, are probably pre-Conquest. Traces of undoubtedly Saxon work were discovered in the foundations of the E. wall of the chancel, so that the Saxon church must have been of the same length as the present one, and this is singularly great as compared with the width.

Figure 13.—Woolbeding Church.

Showing Saxon pilaster strips on S. wall of Nave.

Figure 14.—Worth Church.

Showing long-and-short work in S.E. angle of Nave, and a pilaster strip on E. wall of S. Transept.

The main building is of twelfth century date, with later additions and insertions, and many of the details are of great interest.

Stoughton (St. Mary).

Stoughton church does not seem to have received the attention it deserves from archæologists, and, had a careful investigation been made when the church was restored in 1879, details might have been brought to light which would have helped to fix its date with more certainty than is now possible.

The plan of the church is cruciform, and a fourteenth century low tower has been raised above the S. transept, having its eaves-course on a level with that of the nave. It seems quite permissible to surmise that the plan and a great part of the fabric are of Saxon origin; but there were many alterations at the end of the twelfth century, when the present N. and S. transept arches were built and the chancel was practically rebuilt. At a first glance the church seems to show no features earlier than Norman, but closer examination reveals details which point to Saxon construction. The chancel walls were lowered in the fourteenth century, but the nave walls retain their great original height of nearly 30ft. In the west wall—which is only about 2ft. thick—of both the N. and S. transepts there is a double-splayed round-headed window, about 12ins. wide and 4ft. high, resembling in form the rather larger (except in respect of height) openings in the tower of Singleton church (Fig. 11) which are undoubtedly Saxon; but the stone-work of the windows has the appearance of Norman workmanship, and the depth of the outer splay is about one-third that of the inner one, whereas the usual Saxon method with double-splayed windows was to have the aperture for light nearly or quite central

in the thickness of the wall. There seems, however, no good reason to doubt that these double-splayed lights at Stoughton are really Saxon.

The tall N. door-way looks as if it had been originally a Saxon one, but the present details are thirteenth century work, as is also the case with the S. door-way.

The lofty and well-built chancel arch is curiously similar to that of Bosham in the sections of the piers and arch, and its general measurements have been found by Mr. P. M. Johnston to be practically identical with the same measurements at Bosham. It would appear, therefore, that the same masons executed the two works, and that the date of both would fall within the period 1040–65. The capitals of the Stoughton arch have a voluted form and very curious details, and, taken by themselves, might well be thought to be Norman.

In the E. and N. exterior walls of the chancel there are fragmentary stones built into the flint rubble which have the appearance of having belonged to Saxon windows; there may be others in the S. wall, but it is unfortunately covered with ivy. The chancel quoins have an early look, and, in one or two cases, are doubled as at Ford, Lyminster, and Singleton, but there is no actual long-and-short work. Plaster and stucco now conceal most of the walling of the nave and transepts.

It is curious to note that the nave, transepts, and chancel are each nearly square, so that the elongated dimensions which are often found in Saxon church plans are absent. At the same time there seem to be sufficiently good grounds for believing that the original church was of late Saxon construction, and if a fuller investigation of the present building were possible, discoveries of great interest might be made.

Westhampnett (St. Peter).

It has been thought that there was a church here in very early Saxon times, but what ancient work restoration has spared in the present building is probably of the reign of Edward the Confessor.

An Anglo-Saxon chancel arch formed in Roman tiles—some of them hollow, like flue tiles—was swept away at a "restoration" in 1868, but there remains a small blocked window visible in the exterior S. wall of the chancel (Fig. 12). The head is a single stone, the soffit of which has an inward and upward scoop for the freer admission of light; the jambs are in flint-work with fragments of tile freely plastered over; the fact that they have an inward inclination points fairly conclusively to a Saxon date. The width between them at the base is about 9ins., and at the springing of the semi-circular head 6½ins. The height of the window opening, which was splayed internally, is 2ft. 7ins. Built into the exterior E. wall of the modern organ chamber on the N. side of the chancel is the reproduction of a similar but smaller window; only the single-stone head is original, the jambs being of modern flint work, with which, too, the opening is blocked. It seems probable that the old material belonged to a Saxon window which was in the N. wall of the chancel when that wall was partly pulled down on the addition of the organ chamber.

Except the eastern 8ft. of the chancel, by which amount it was lengthened in the thirteenth century, its fabric is, in the main, Saxon; the walls are only 2ft. 6ins. thick. Herring-bone work in Roman bricks and tiles and in stone is freely used in the Saxon portion of the S. wall, as may be seen in the photograph. The lancet windows are renewals of the thirteenth century lights.

Woolbeding (All Hallows).

Restoration has fortunately spared the oldest features of this little church, and the flat pilaster strips remaining on the walls of the nave indicate undoubted Saxon work for this part of the building. There are five irregularly spaced strips on the S. wall of the nave, while on the N. wall there are two, and the lower part of a third; their width is from 6 to 7ins. (Fig. 13). At the N.W. and N.E. angles of the nave there is an approach to long-and-short work. A plain round-headed recess in the S. wall of the nave probably indicates the position of an Anglo-Saxon door-way. There can be little hesitation in assigning the nave to the early years of the Confessor's reign, or even to the beginning of the eleventh century.

Worth (St. Nicholas).

This now well-known cruciform church, with its absolutely unaltered ground plan and practically unaltered structure, is one of the most interesting buildings in this country. It is certainly the most complete example of Anglo-Saxon architecture in Sussex, though its date is evidently a very late one. Indeed, Rivoira thinks that Norman influence is so markedly shown that it is possible the church was not built until after the Conquest; however this may be, Anglo-Saxon characteristics stand out so strongly that it cannot be described otherwise than as belonging to this period. It must be remembered, too, that variations in the ordinary Saxon methods do not necessarily imply a post-Conquest date, for Norman craftsmen were imported into England by Edward the Confessor in connection with the building of his Abbey church at

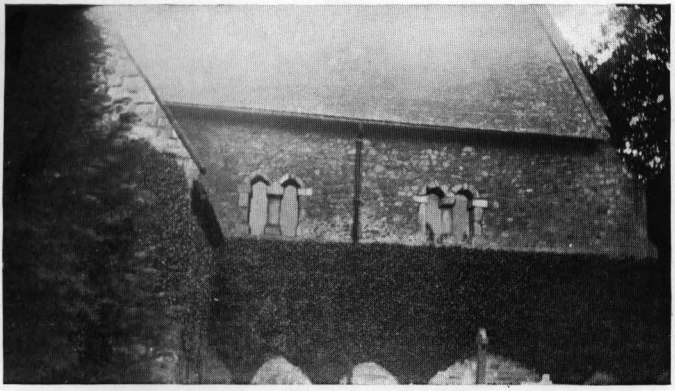

Figure 15.—Worth Church: N. wall of Nave.

Saxon windows, partly restored.

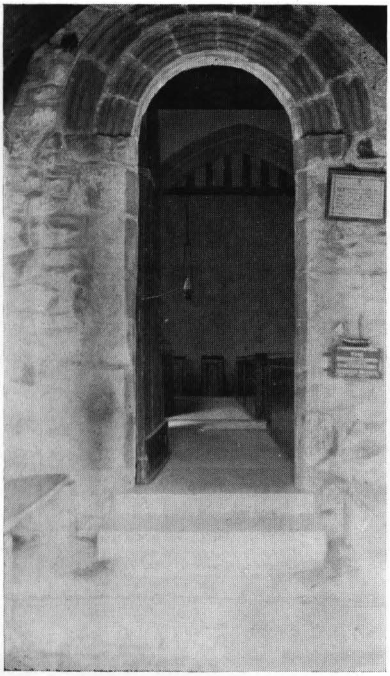

Figure 16.—Bolney Church.

S. door-way (possibly Saxon) under early 18th century porch.

Westminster and it may well be that some of them found their way to Worth.

With regard to the plan of the church it may be noted that it is the only one of very early date in Sussex now extant with an apsidal chancel. In England, generally, the existing pre-Norman churches with square east ends are far more numerous than the contemporary ones which have, or had, apses, showing that this latter form, of Roman origin, was not nearly so popular as the Celtic square end. Another peculiarity in the plan is that the transepts are not exactly opposite to each other—probably the result of inaccuracy in laying out.

In the building itself the most noteworthy Anglo-Saxon features are:—(1) the lofty walls; (2) the long-and-short work at the external angles of the nave (Fig. 14) and transepts; (3) the chancel arch, about 22ft. high, formed of through stones; (4) the massive arches, nearly 15ft. in height, opening to the transepts, and also built with through-stones; (5) the strip-work flanking the jambs of the chancel and transept arches, and carried round the arches; (6) the N. and S. doorways, 15ft. high, in the nave, with their semi-circular heads of through-stones; (7) the double windows (two in the N. wall of the nave, but only one remaining in the S. wall) cut straight through the wall, with mid-wall shafts (Fig. 15); (8) the external string-course carried round the nave and chancel walls at rather more than half their height; and (9) the external pilaster strips (Fig. 14) built up in long-and-short fashion, which support the string-course at intervals and rest on a double projecting course of stone forming a plinth.

Norman influence is seen, perhaps, in the apsidal termination of the chancel (though this form is found occasionally all through the Saxon period) and in the

great width (30ft.) of the nave in comparison with its length (60ft.)*; in the width of the arches of the chancel and transepts, and the moulding of the massive impost blocks of the former, together with the semi-cylindrical form of the piers of the chancel arch; in the unusual breadth—mostly 1ft., but reaching 14ins. in parts—of the external pilaster strips, which in some places project as much as 3ins. from the wall face, and may almost be looked upon as small buttresses; and in the half-round shape given to the pilaster strips flanking the chancel arch on its E. face.

The upper member of the chancel arch imposts is square-edged, while the lower has a double curve on the face, thus giving a cushion-like appearance. Round the arch, which approaches an elliptical form, the strip-work, forming a sort of hood-mould, consisted, on the W. face, of a double course of square-edged stones, but only a small portion of the projecting upper course remains; below the imposts the continuation of the strip down to the ground on each side is in long-and-short work, between 7 and 8 inches wide and projecting about 2¾ins. On the E. face the strip round the arch is a single course, while, as has been already mentioned, the strips at the sides are worked to a half-round form, as is the case with the pilasters on the tower of Sompting church.

The treatment of the transept arches is naturally plainer than that of the chancel arch; the imposts are formed of two square-edged blocks of stone, the upper overhanging the lower by about 3ins., and projecting about 6ins. inwards from the soffit of the semi-circular

* It is, however, interesting to note that the well-known Saxon Churches at Brixworth and Dover have almost the same dimensions, and that these agree with those recorded of the earliest wooden church at Glastonbury.

arch. The square-edged strip, about 6ins. wide, carried round the arch, only remains on the nave side, but the strips flanking the plain square jambs are more or less complete on both faces. All the masonry on the transept side of the arches is very rude.

It would, perhaps, be permissible to say that the shape of the baluster shafts of the double windows (Fig. 15) shows foreign influence; they are wrought by hand to a plain slightly bellying outline, and are unlike the usually lathe-worked Saxon shafts; curiously enough the Worth balusters bear a strong resemblance to certain Roman shafts, but this must be quite accidental, for no Roman sites are known to have existed anywhere in the neighbourhood.

In the E. wall of the N. transept there is a small window of which the exterior stone-work and the inner jambs of the internal splay have an ancient appearance, and possibly the work is Saxon. But the window underwent alteration in the thirteenth century, when it was adapted to light an altar which was set under an arched recess in this wall. A similar recess in like position may be seen in the S. transept, but here the thirteenth century pointed arch is inserted below a semi-circular arch and there is no indication of any window opening.

The blocked up Saxon N. door-way in the nave is now only visible on the interior; the corresponding S. door-way has lost its original form by the insertion between its jambs of a thirteenth century door-way.

The external string-course, which is chamfered in the nave but square-edged on the chancel, does not appear at all on the transept walls, unless a stone course a little below the eaves may be regarded as such, fulfilling, as elsewhere in the building the string-course does, the purpose of a stop to the vertical strips. There

is a difference of about 16ins. in level between the string-courses of the nave and chancel, but in the latter case it is probable that the course was purposely set lower so as to correspond with the difference in height between the walls of the chancel and nave; it has, however, been thought that the different levels may have arisen from the building operations not having been carried on continuously.

Not unnaturally, after a lapse of eight and a half centuries, some of the original stone-work has disappeared, and much of the old plinth is now below the surface of the ground. The church has of course undergone restoration, notably in the chancel, and some of it was unfortunately drastic; the work was carried out from 1869 to 1872. The N. wall of the nave was practically rebuilt, and also the S. transept; the S. porch and the tower on the N. side of the chancel were added in 1886.

The church contains many interesting features which do not come within the scope of this book, but, apart from its archæological attraction, its romantic situation will alone repay a visit. Picturesque as the ivy growing on the church walls is, it is gradually covering much of the old architectural detail, and will in time do serious damage to the fabric; its entire removal would be a wise proceeding.

CHURCHES POSSIBLY PRE-CONQUEST.

ALDINGBOURNE (ST. MARY).

Parts of the nave walls are possibly of pre-Conquest date. The nave had a N. aisle, which was destroyed *c.* 1350, and the arcade was blocked up. On opening up its westernmost arch in 1904, to give access to a new vestry, it was found to be of early Norman character,

and a still earlier date for the wall itself may thus be inferred.

Bexhill (St. Peter).

If there are any remains of Saxon construction in this much altered and enlarged church they are contained in the W. part of the nave walls. Above the two Norman arches, on each side, which were here pierced through them, herring-bone work was found (on the S. side) when the plaster was removed in the course of restoration in 1878. A stronger suggestion of Saxon work is in the height and thinness of the nave walls—over 20ft. and 23ins. respectively.

A very interesting relic in the church is a sculptured stone, now built in under the tower on its S. side; in shape it is a four-sided truncated pyramid, ornamented with Hiberno-Saxon interlaced patterns and crosses, and probably dates from the eighth century. The stone was found in 1878 beneath the floor near the W. end of the nave, and was described by Mr. Romilly Allen as "by far the most interesting monument of its kind in the South of England" (*Journal of the British Archæological Association*, vol. xli, p. 274). It seems, however, to have come originally from the North, and was no doubt imported by Celtic missionaries, for a very similar stone was discovered in 1891 in the foundations of the Chapter House of Durham Cathedral; moreover, the sand-stone of which the Bexhill stone is composed is not to be found in the South of England.

Bignor (St. Peter.)

This church was rebuilt in the thirteenth century, but it possesses a plain circular chancel arch which, from its massive construction, and also from the fact that remains of a Roman villa are near at hand, has

been thought by some authorities to be of Roman-worked stones. This seems quite likely, and these ponderous stones were doubtless utilized by the Saxon or early Norman builders.

Bolney (St. Mary Magdalene).

The S. door-way (Fig. 16), with a porch dated 1718 in front of it, is interesting; it is possibly of pre-Conquest date, and the mouldings of the arch are rather characteristic of Saxon work; on the other hand the arch has two recessed orders, and recessing points to Norman influence. The outer order, 7ins. wide, is moulded with two rings of triangular section with channels between; the inner order, 9ins. wide, is similar, but has a roll between two sharp-pointed rings. The imposts are plain; they had a chamfered under-side which was partly cut away, in the first instance, when the porch was erected.

Two small round-headed windows, one on each side of the chancel, seem to be early Norman, though the internal splays are rather shallow for this period. There is nothing about the original fabric of the church—which has a modern N. aisle and a tower dated 1538—to indicate undoubted Saxon work, The arch mouldings of the S. doorway were possibly cut by Saxon masons under Norman supervision.

Botolphs (St. Botolph).

This diminutive church, which has lost a thirteenth century N. aisle, is probably of Anglo-Saxon origin, but seems to have come under Norman influence in the course of its erection. The S. wall of the nave and the plain semi-circular chancel arch with rude imposts are

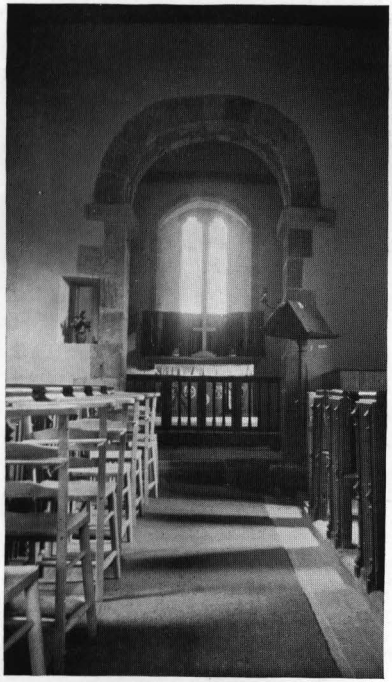

Figure 17.—Chithurst Church : Chancel Arch.

Probably of post-Conquest date.

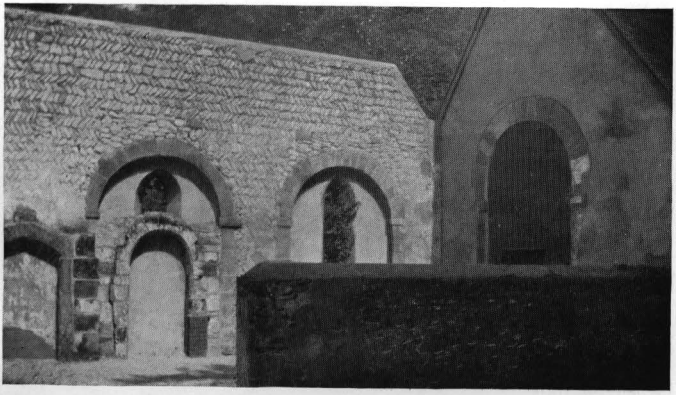

Figure 18.—Elsted Church.

Showing possibly Saxon herring-bone work in N. wall of ruined Nave. The arches of the blocked arcade (in which later openings have been inserted) and the Chancel Arch are probably of early Norman date.

of unmistakably early workmanship, but the bold half-round soffit moulding to the arch, resting on rounded axe-carved corbels at the springing, has a distinctly Norman look.

A small loop light, splayed internally, high up in the W. portion of the S. wall of the nave has been considered to be Saxon, but it has no distinctive feature of the period.

The chancel was rebuilt in the fourteenth century.

Chichester (St. Olave's).

This nave-and-chancel church occupies the site of a Roman building, and when the chancel was rebuilt in 1851, an arch formed in Roman tiles was discovered at the E. end with two urns embedded in the wall above it. There was once a crypt (discovered in 1851), in which Roman brick was used, beneath the chancel, but no signs of it are now to be seen. The visible remains of early work consist of a blocked round-headed doorway in the S. wall of the nave; the work is all quite plain, and it may possibly be of pre-Conquest date. At all events St. Olave's may reasonably claim to be the representative of the earliest Christian church in Chichester.

Chithurst (? St. Mary).

This is one of the small nave-and-chancel churches, unaltered in plan, to which it is very difficult to assign a definite date. The walls are mainly built of herring-bone rubble, and their thickness averages only about 2ft. 2ins., which would imply Saxon construction. The chancel arch is of horse-shoe form, and has chamfered imposts (Fig. 17); an early Norman date is probably more applicable to it than a Saxon one. A small window on the N. side of the chancel with a narrow

internal splay might be Saxon; and, in comparison with the plan, the walls are high—15ft. in the nave and 13ft. in the chancel—which also favours a Saxon date. Mr. P. M. Johnston, who was in charge of the restoration of the church in 1911, has perhaps offered the best solution of the difficulty as to date by suggesting that the church was built very soon after the Conquest, and probably by Saxon masons.

Eastergate (St. George).

There is not much left in this small nave-and-chancel church to indicate its original date, but many authorities consider that much of the fabric of the chancel, which underwent a certain amount of rebuilding in the thirteenth century, is pre-Norman. There are, however, no definite marks of Anglo-Saxon work, but herring-bone work in Roman bricks is to be seen among the flint rubble in the external S. wall of the chancel, and in its N. wall there is a diminutive round-headed light, splayed internally, and with the external head formed in a single stone; each jamb of the window consists of three stones arranged in long-and-short fashion.

Remains of wall-painting decoration in an orange-red colour are on the N. and S. interior walls of the chancel, and on the soffit of the little window above mentioned are vestiges of colouring; although perhaps not co-eval with the window, the decoration cannot be later than about the year 1100.

Elsted (St. Paul).

Although this old building is in great part a ruin it still retains interesting early features which, it is to be hoped, will not be allowed to perish. Some attempt has been made to preserve the nave in its present con-

dition, and the chancel has been made usable for occasional services; of the roofless nave, only the N. wall, the lower part of the S. wall, and the greater part of the W. wall remain standing (Fig. 18). These walls are almost entirely built in herring-bone courses of hard chalk rag, and were originally about 20ft. high. The N. wall has two blocked arches of early Norman date, showing that there was once an aisle on this side, and it may be reasonably conjectured that the wall had been for some time in existence before the arches were pierced through it, and that it may have belonged to an Anglo-Saxon church. In the thirteenth century, when the chancel was rebuilt, a window was inserted in each of the blocked arches, and a later door-way, blocking the greater part of the inserted window, was formed within the western of the two arches.

The chancel has retained a lofty arch of horse-shoe form, which is apparently co-eval with the arcade in the nave wall.

Elsted church is probably contemporaneous with Chithurst church, and it was perhaps erected under the same conditions. It is, however, quite possible that the original fabric was entirely Saxon; the lower part of the E. wall of the chancel has certainly an appearance of Saxon work.

Friston (St. James the Greater).

In the S. wall of the nave of this little church are to be seen a small semi-circular headed window, blocked externally and splayed internally to a width of over 2ft., and near it, on its W. side, the voussoir-stones of part of an arch which belonged to a door-way (Fig. 19); on the interior the outline of the door-way is more perfect, but lacks the eastern jamb. These are evidently remnants of early features, but how much earlier than the

Norman door-way close by, which was inserted about 1120 and superseded the first door-way, it is difficult to say. It is possible that the greater part of the nave walls. (in which some rough herring-bone masonry occurs) and also the blocked window and door-way are of Saxon construction and pre-Conquest date, but in default of definite Saxon characteristics no positive assertion can be made.

It will be seen in the photograph that a porch has been erected in front of the Norman door-way. Other additions and a complete restoration in 1892 have helped to conceal much of the ancient character of the church.

Hardham (St. Botolph).

This nave-and-chancel church has some features which possibly warrant the attribution of a pre-Conquest date to it, and these are found in the small windows, one on each side of the nave and one in the N. wall of the chancel; they are about 6ins. wide at the base, and the jambs incline slightly towards the head—a mark of Saxon work. The internal splays are narrow, but less so in the case of the chancel window which retains a shallow external rebate for a wooden shutter. The external heads are cut in a single stone.

In the S. wall of the nave there is a square-headed door-way blocked with brick-work; it has a massive stone lintel tapering towards the ends, but, beyond its rude appearance, the door-way is devoid of any detail which would give a satisfactory clue to its approximate date, though it is undoubtedly an early one. It is probably rather earlier than a somewhat similar door-way at Burpham, where the lintel has been joggled, and has thus escaped the fracture which is noticeable in the Hardham lintel; a rough discharging-arch over the

latter may have been inserted after the failure of the lintel.

Roman tiles and bricks are found in the chancel walls, and in the S.E. quoin is a conglomerate mass of them held together by the original mortar.

The remarkable mural paintings in this church cannot be very many years later than the fabric, and are among the oldest and most valuable in England.

Lurgashall (St. Lawrence).

In the N. wall of the nave herring-bone work is to be seen, and also a narrow and lofty door-way, which may be of pre-Conquest date.

Lyminster (St. Mary Magdalene).

A small Saxon nunnery was established at Lyminster in the reign of Athelstan, and the nave and chancel of the present building may be on the lines of the original church. There is much masonry which seems to be Saxon extant in the main fabric, and in the S. wall of the nave are the remains of the arch of a tall, possibly Saxon, door-way, within which a late twelfth century door-way, long ago blocked up, was inserted (Fig. 20). Some of the voussoir stones of the earlier arch can be seen both externally and internally. The head of a blocked window in the N. wall of the nave above the arcade of the Transition-Norman aisle is probably early Norman.

A Saxon date has been claimed for the plain round-headed lofty chancel arch, which has a width of 8ft. 4ins. The arch may have been originally Saxon, but it seems to have been altered and raised in Norman times; the piers are in two stages, with an upper abacus at the springing of the arch and a lower one at about 10ft. from the ground. The upper abacus is grooved

and chamfered, and appears to be of early Norman date, while the lower is plain with a hollow chamfer, and apparently of a later Norman date.

Although there is an absence of any definite Anglo-Saxon features, it seems extremely probable, on other grounds, that this church is of pre-Conquest date; the elongated proportions and the lofty nave walls, nearly 25ft. in height, tend to confirm this; the length of the nave—63ft.—is three times its width, while the length of the chancel is more than three times its width.

Some of the quoin stones at the S. angles of the nave are doubled, as is also the case at Ford and in the tower at Singleton.

Ovingdean (St. Wulfran).

The original plan of this church, which consisted of a small nave and chancel, is almost identical with that of two other Sussex churches—Rumboldswyke and Westhampnett—of undoubted Anglo-Saxon date; but beyond this, and the fact that the unaltered chancel walls are only 2ft. 6ins. thick, there are no visible indications to enable us to place Ovingdean church unhesitatingly in that period. It is true that a church at Ovingdean is mentioned in *Domesday Book*, but this does not of necessity imply that it was built before the Conquest, and it is quite possible that an early Norman nave and chancel were erected on the Saxon foundations.

There is herring-bone work in flint in the S. wall of the chancel, which also possesses on its E., N., and S. sides very small round-headed internally-splayed windows, which features, however, are not sufficiently distinctive to prove a Saxon date, though it is possible.

Between the nave and chancel there is a triple arch, of which the central opening appears to be early Norman; the other two are later.

Figure 19.—Friston Church: S. wall of Nave.

Showing remains of small blocked window and of door-way arch, possibly Saxon.

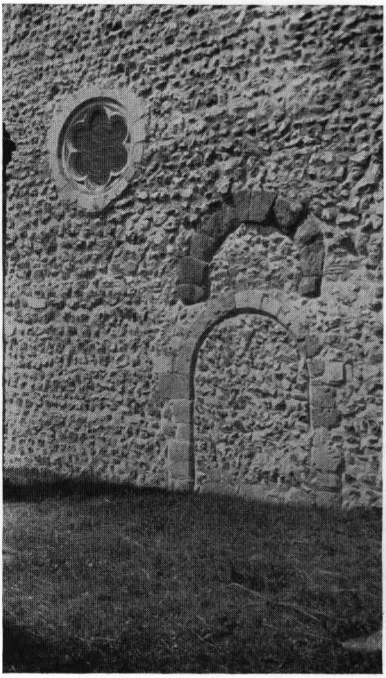

Figure 20.—Lyminster Church.

Arch of probably Saxon door-way (beneath which a Norman door-way has been inserted) in S. wall of Nave.

The church had aisles given to it in the thirteenth century, but these have disappeared.

Selham (St. James).

This little church, less than 45ft. in length, was possibly of Anglo-Saxon origin; it underwent alteration in the thirteenth century, and was restored in 1861. Herring-bone masonry work may be seen in the E. wall of the chancel and the N. wall of the nave, but the most interesting feature is the semi-circular chancel arch which, however, shows undoubted Norman influence (Frontispiece). The arch has a bold angle roll on the W. face, with two small rolls outside; against the inner face of the jambs are set large three-quarter-round soffit shafts with a space between them of only 4ft. 10ins. The capitals, which have an unusual arrangement in three heights, are richly carved with ornament. On the N. side the capital proper immediately surmounting the soffit shaft has bold foliage worked into volutes at the angles—an indication of Norman work; the massive impost block above it has interlaced work carved on its inner and W. face, which might well be of Saxon date, while, above again, the projecting abacus, which has a slightly hollowed chamfer, seems to have been re-moulded on its inner face in the twelfth century; its return along the W. face has carved foliage.

On the S. side the capital is formed on the inner face by the intertwining of two snake-like bodies terminating in zoömorphic heads at the angles; on its E. and W. face foliage is carved. Inter-twining foliage is also carved upon the impost stone above the capital; and the abacus, moulded with a small roll between two grooves, has interlacing ornament, while the return on the W. face bears a carving of a dragon whose tail terminates apparently in a head, a peculiarity which may

also be seen on the Norman font in Lincoln Cathedral, one of the seven black marble fonts which were brought to England from Tournai *c.* 1180.

Whatever may be the precise date of this interesting carving in Selham church it is undoubtedly the most perfect, of an early period, in Sussex.

A pre-Conquest date has been suggested for the N. door-way which is unrebated, plain, and round-headed; the abacus is plain, except that its lower portion has a groove, and underneath, the face is hollowed to meet the line of the jambs. The details point rather to Norman workmanship.

Slaugham (St. Mary).

A blocked door-way on the N. side of the nave bears a strong resemblance to the S. door-way at Bolney (p. 48), and is possibly a relic of the Anglo-Saxon period, to which the adjoining portion of the fabric may also belong.

Walberton (St. Mary).

The church has been too much modernized to be recognizable as ancient, but the old nave had eleventh century arches pierced through its walls which were largely composed of Roman bricks, so that a pre-Conquest date might be inferred for the original fabric. When the church was "restored" in 1903, a pre-Conquest gable-cross was found embedded in the W. gable of the nave; it is now in the Vicarage garden.

Westdean (All Saints).

It is possible that a very rude blocked opening in the N. wall of the nave may have been an Anglo-Saxon window, and a lofty and narrow blocked door-way in the same wall may be of the same period. The rounded

head of the window has an upward scoop, which is also noticeable at Westhampnett and in the old windows in the chancel of Ovingdean church; the door-way has a semi-circular head, and the imposts are plain and square; but definite Saxon characteristics are lacking.

Wivelsfield (St. John Baptist).

Built into the wall of a modern N. aisle there is a door-way almost identical with the S. door-way at Bolney. It is the only remnant of the original church, and was probably executed by the same Saxon masons as were employed at Bolney either just before the Conquest or very soon after it. The two churches are only five miles distant from each other.

Churches probably post-Conquest.

The following churches contain work evidently early, and for which a Saxon date has been sometimes claimed, but the probability seems to be that they are of post-Conquest origin, though it is not improbable that Saxon workmen were employed in the building of some of them. The features which suggest a possibility of Saxon workmanship are briefly noted.

Burpham (St. Mary).

In the N. wall of the nave is a small blocked window of rude character. Near it is a square-headed door-way with a joggled stone lintel in three blocks. The jambs and lintel have chamfered edges, as have also the jambs of the little window; this seems to imply Norman workmanship.

Burton (Dedication unknown).

The walls of the tiny nave, more especially the N. wall, which contains some herring-bone work, might perhaps be Saxon work.

EASTDEAN (SS. SIMON AND JUDE).

The tower, with its three diminishing stages, on the N. side of the nave, seems, at first glance, to be of undoubtedly Norman date, but a closer inspection reveals details which have an earlier look; the most significant of them is a little window in the second stage on the W. side with slightly inclined jambs. Traces of the foundations of an eastern apse to the tower may be seen which probably indicate that the tower formed an oratory before the rest of the church was added. The tower walls are 3ft. thick; they seem to have been built with a view to defence, and most likely in Norman days; but possibly they incorporate Saxon construction.

FERRING (ST. ANDREW).

A blocked window in the S. wall resembles that at Burpham.

FITTLEWORTH (ST. MARY).

The tower evidently belonged originally to an older church than the present thirteenth century one, but there is nothing beyond its plainness to warrant a pre-Conquest date for it; it is probably late eleventh century work.

HANGLETON (ST. HELEN).

The walls are built of large flints, many of them laid in a curious herring-bone fashion on the S. side of the nave. Remnants of small windows and a blocked doorway are of early date—probably Norman.

NORTHIAM (ST. MARY).

The masonry in the lower part of the tower seems earlier than the remainder, which is of Norman date: but there are no good grounds for believing that any part of the tower dates from pre-Conquest days.

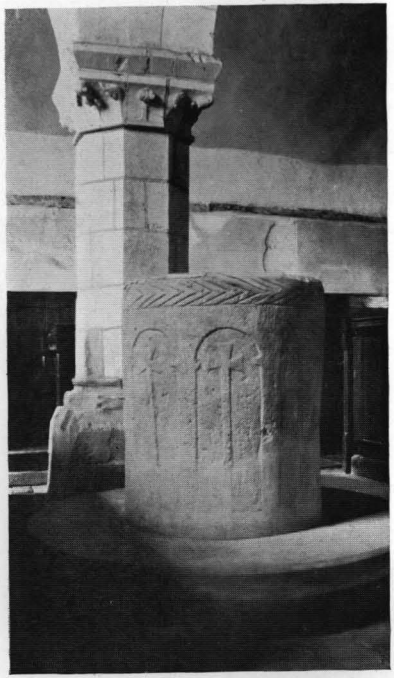

Figure 21.—Yapton Church: the Font.
Probably of early Norman date.

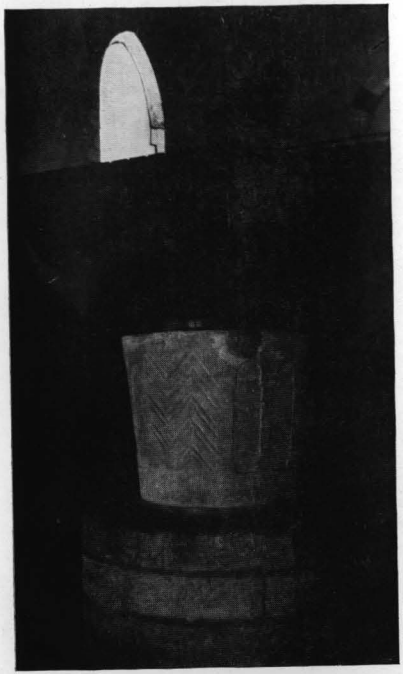

Figure 22.—West Thorney Church: the Font.
Probably of early Norman date.

Rottingdean (St. Margaret).

The N. wall of the nave incorporates fragments of apparently Anglo-Saxon workmanship, probably portions of baluster shafts, which no doubt belonged to an earlier church on this site, and perhaps the lower courses of the quoins of the N. door-way and the W. quoin of the nave on its N. side, which have large blocks of sand-stone, may be remnants of this building. The present church, however, seems to have been built in the thirteenth century.

Stopham (St. Mary the Virgin).

Most authorities now concur in the belief that this church was erected very soon after the Conquest, but it exhibits some detail which might be the work of Saxon masons.

The nave is the oldest portion, and in its N. and S. door-ways, but more especially in the S., are to be seen interesting features. What look like probably early Norman workmanship are the circular shafts; the roll mouldings, one of which is on the edge of the S. door-way arch, with two small rolls sunk nearly flush with the wall face, outside it; the bold chamfered abaci; and the cubical capitals to the shafts of the N. door-way. On the other hand, the moulding at the top of the circular shafts of the S. door-way is of a typical Anglo-Saxon character, with—in section—three sharp projections and grooves between them.

Upmarden (St. Michael).

The present church is mainly a re-construction of the thirteenth century, and the roughly triangular chancel arch probably reproduces the form of a much earlier opening. At the lower part of its jambs

may be seen the stumps of jambs which belonged to a narrower chancel arch than the present one; the enlargement of the arch-way has been very clumsily carried out. It seems doubtful whether even the masonry which remains of the original jambs is of Saxon date; however, Mr. O. H. Leeney, in some interesting Notes on this church, published, with illustrations, in the *Brighton and Hove Archæologist* (1914), states that he considers that the work of enlargement and re-construction are both of undoubted Saxon technique.

Some eight or nine other churches, of which the little church at Coates has perhaps the best claim to be considered the earliest, might be mentioned as having indications or traces of possible Saxon work; but these are so very indefinite, and fragmentary for the most part, that they cannot be adduced as evidence of a date earlier than Norman. A re-erected door-way in the N. aisle of Horsted Keynes Church; a blocked door-way in the N. wall of West Dean Church; the chancel arch of Buncton Chapel, which also has Roman tiles mixed with flint and rubble in its walls, as well as some herring-bone construction; the unusually high nave walls at Itchingfield; and part of the N. wall of the nave of Kirdford Church, have sometimes been spoken of as Saxon, but are almost certainly of Norman origin, and not very early in that period.

A few churches in Sussex are known to be standing on sites where a Saxon church existed previously; thus, at Steyning, the foundations (in which stones bearing incised crosses probably of Saxon date occurred) of an early chancel have been discovered, but no part of the present church is earlier than the reign of Henry I; at Stedham fragments of rude sand-stone

slabs, resembling, in regard to the peculiarly formed raised crosses upon them, some to be seen in Chithurst churchyard, were found to have been used as part of the foundations of the early twelfth century walls, and also in the walling of the W. gable; at Cocking slabs almost certainly pre-Conquest were found in the foundations of the early Norman chancel; and at Icklesham the foundations of the W. end seem to have belonged to a Saxon church. There is doubtless many another church site in the county where Saxon work, now hidden below ground, may some day be brought to light.

Mr. P. M. Johnston's find of a pre-Conquest coffin-slab, and other ancient stones, built into a modern wall in a builder's yard at Walberton, Sussex, shows that it is always worth while to be on the look-out for Saxon fragments. This slab is of the peculiar fresh-water limestone which has been already referred to as being used in Saxon church construction at Singleton, Sompting, and elsewhere; it is believed to have been taken out of a wall in Arundel Castle many years ago when some repairs were being carried out there. A full description is given by Mr. Johnston in vol. xlvii of the *Sussex Archæological Society's Collections.*

In addition to the sculptures already referred to at Bexhill and Jevington as being of early date, and certainly of the Saxon period in the first-named church, reference may be here made to two bas-reliefs in Chichester Cathedral, in the wall of the S. aisle, east of the transept, as they are often described as Saxon, and are said to have been brought from Selsey when the bishopric was removed thence to Chichester in 1082. The two panels, which were discovered in 1829 behind the choir stalls, represent the meeting of our Saviour

with Mary and Martha at Bethany, and the raising of Lazarus. Though the hands and faces are out of proportion, the treatment of the other details of the figures is very careful and superior, and must be work of the end of the twelfth century at the earliest. They are of somewhat similar character to the sculptures noticed in Sompting church, which are later again. A curious bas-relief in a window-head in the S. wall of Tangmere church may be Saxon, and the wall itself has been thought to be of the same period; its great height suggests the Saxon tradition, if not an actual pre-Conquest date.

West Sussex has some large tub-shaped or cylindrical fonts which are evidently of very early date, and many of them, such as those at Littlehampton, Walberton, Didling, Cocking, Trotton, Selham, and Yapton (fig. 21) may be pre-Conquest. There are no fonts in the whole of England which can be conclusively proved to be Saxon, although, in a few instances, there are good grounds for believing a Saxon date possible. In the case of these Sussex fonts the fact that many of them are formed of the peculiar fresh-water limestone, which is prominent in nearly all local Saxon work, may be urged in favour of their pre-Conquest date (*c.* 1040), but when any ornament appears upon them it is of Norman character, or at all events not distinctively Saxon. It is possible, of course, that the ornament has been added to the original font, and in the instance of West Thorney (fig. 22)—assuming the font itself to be Saxon—this is evidently what has happened.

The almost identical tub-shaped fonts at Denton, and in St. Anne's church, Lewes, which are carved with interlaced ornament, belong to an early, though not pre-Conquest, date.

V.

Notice of Archæological Publications.

NOTES ON

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BY

COL. H. L. JESSEP.

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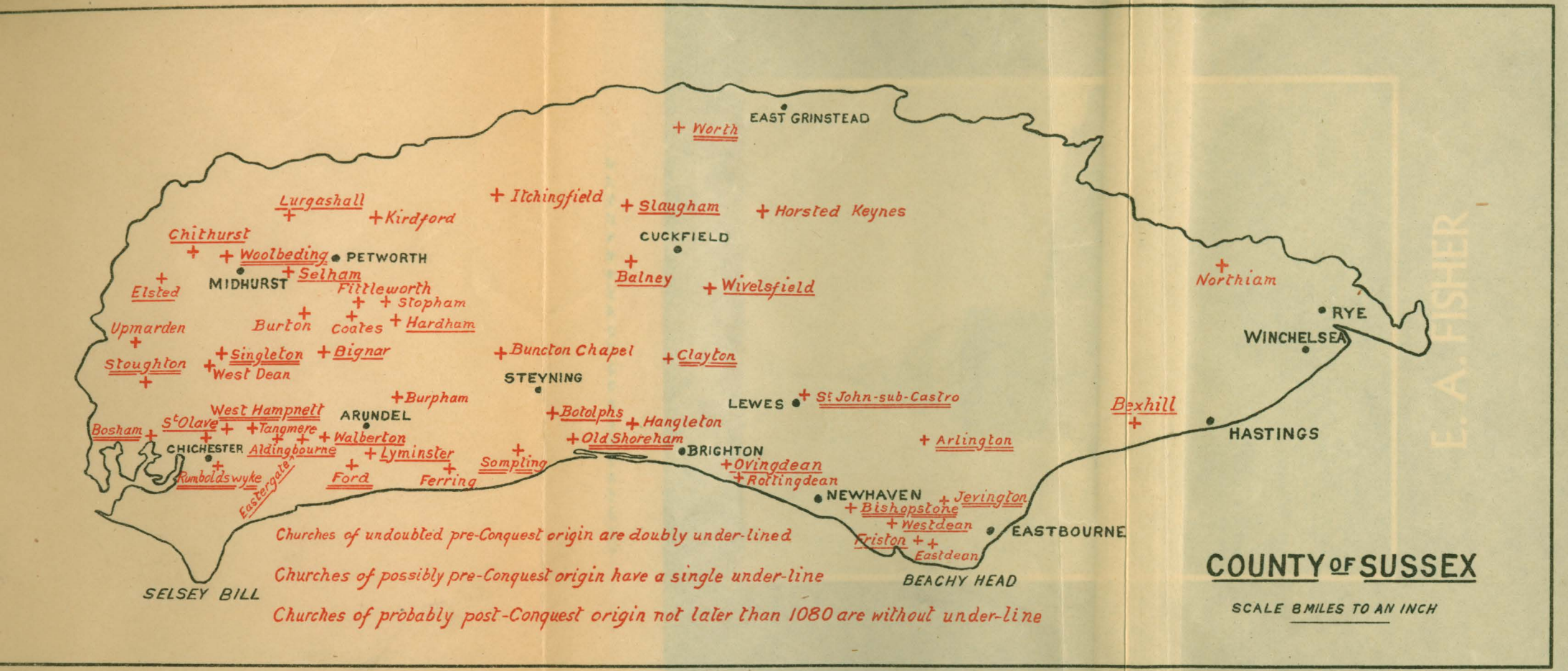

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